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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/617,232  
First Named Inventor : Tadeusz J. Drwiega  
TC/A.U. : 2661  
Examiner : Van Kim T. Nguyen  
Filed : July 14, 2000

Confirmation no.: 5380

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Docket No. : 91436-255  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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on March 9, 2004

Signature

Ronald D. Faggetter

## AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action of December 23, 2003, please amend the  
application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins  
on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.